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Forensic sciences - Part 2: Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items (ISO 21043-2:2018)

Forensik - Teil 2: Spurensuche, Dokumentation, Sicherung, Transport und Lagerung von Asservaten (ISO 21043-2:2018)

Criminalistique - Partie 2: Reconnaissance, enregistrement, collecte, transport et stockage des traces et autres éléments d'intérêt (ISO 21043-2:2018)

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Part 2:

Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items

Criminalistique —

*Partie 2: Reconnaissance, enregistrement, collecte, transport
et stockage des traces et autres éléments d'intérêt*

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 272, *Forensic sciences*.

A list of all parts of the ISO 21043 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

This document is part of a series which, when completed, will include the different components of the forensic process from scene to courtroom. This document establishes requirements designed to safeguard the reliability of results produced by the forensic process. It includes measures to protect items during the process of recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage, which apply throughout the forensic process, both in the field and in the facility. The requirements are designed to protect items from loss, degradation, contamination and to minimize the negative impact of handling or packaging on downstream process.

[Annexes A, B](#) and [C](#) are for information only.

The notes given provide clarification of the text, examples and guidance. They do not contain requirements and do not form an integral part of this document.

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Forensic sciences —

Part 2:

Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the forensic process focusing on recognition, recording, collection, transport and storage of items of potential forensic value. It includes requirements for the assessment and examination of scenes but is also applicable to activities that occur within the facility. This document also includes quality requirements.

This document is not applicable to procedures for the recovery of data from digital storage media which is covered by ISO/IEC 27037. However, the storage medium itself can yield additional items of forensic value (e.g. fingerprints or DNA).

[Annex D](#) shows the applicability of this document to the forensic process.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 21043-1, *Forensic sciences — Terms and definitions*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 21043-1 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Abbreviations

DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment

5 General requirements

5.1 Quality

Policies and/or procedures shall be documented and include:

- a) document control;

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- b) education and training requirements for personnel to ensure competence (see also [5.5](#));
- c) how corrective action is undertaken, recorded and reviewed;
- d) monitoring and recording conformance with policies and procedures;
- e) quality checks including peer review;
- f) record control;
- g) responsibility, authority and role of personnel;
- h) standard operating procedures;
- i) use of external service providers.

Policies and procedures within the scope of this document shall be readily accessible to relevant personnel, who shall be familiar with and operate within these requirements.

5.2 Requests for service

Customer requests shall be recorded and considered when developing the forensic examination strategy.

NOTE The customer requests and the scope of assignments are not always clear before the forensic examination has been started.

The customer should be informed and/or consulted on significant changes to the requested examination.

5.3 Impartiality and confidentiality

Policies regarding impartiality and confidentiality within the organization, its personnel and all activities shall be documented.

Information obtained should not influence the impartiality of the forensic process. Any information obtained that potentially impacts the impartiality of the forensic process shall be recorded.

5.4 Health and safety

Health and safety risk assessments shall be undertaken throughout the entire forensic process with appropriate actions to mitigate or control relevant risks. Identified relevant risks should be recorded and taken into consideration throughout the forensic process, especially during the development of the examination strategy.

NOTE Further information regarding potential risks and handling are respectively included in [Annex A](#) and [Subclauses 9.3](#) and [9.4](#).

5.5 Personnel

Roles and responsibilities of personnel shall be defined. Personnel involved in the forensic process, including external providers engaged by the forensic service provider, shall be competent to perform their role.

Requirements for competence of forensic service provider personnel shall include:

- a) an understanding of the different forensic disciplines;
- b) item handling, control, and chain of custody;
- c) loss, degradation, contamination or alteration prevention (see [Annex B](#) for additional information);
- d) recognition of items of potential forensic value;